

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: August 23, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:43 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 8:20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Greg Bowes
Vernon Brown
Sherron Franklin
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Lincoln Plowman

Absent Members

Scott Schneider

BUDGET HEARING

Department of Public Safety
Office of the Director
Emergency Management
Weights and Measures
Animal Care and Control Division
Indianapolis Fire Department and Pension Fund

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, August 23, 2006. Chair Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m., with the following members present: Greg Bowes, Vernon Brown, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, and Lincoln Plowman. Sherron Franklin arrived shortly thereafter. Absent was Scott Schneider.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked to place Proposal No. 428, 2006 on the agenda because it needs to be heard prior to September 1, 2006. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 428, 2006 - elects to fund MECA in 2007 with County Option Income Tax (COIT) Revenues

Robert Clifford, City Controller, said there is a typo in the proposal and the total amount should read \$9,900,000 instead of \$10,900,000 (Exhibit A, attached).

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to "Amend" Proposal No. 428, 2006 per Exhibit B. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Clifford said this proposal is similar to what they proposed last year for funding for MECA. He said \$6.8 million will reimburse the Sheriff's Department, \$2 million will reimburse the Indianapolis Fire Department (IFD), and \$1 million is for MECA operations. He said the total amount is a couple million dollars less than what was appropriated last year as more funds than were necessary were provided for the cost of dispatch. Mr. Clifford said this money is funded through COIT.

Bart Brown, Chief Financial Officer for the Council, said this funding has been done every year since MECA was founded and comes off the top of all collected COIT. He said MECA serves all the public safety agencies within the county. Township fire departments that use to pay for dispatch no longer pay. He said this proposal is not a fiscal ordinance, and no appropriations are needed. Mr. Brown said in order to fund communications with COIT dollars, this proposal has to be passed by September 1, 2006 in order for the funds to be used next year.

Councillor McWhirter asked where the remaining two million dollars from last year's funding is. Mr. Clifford said the two million is remaining in their fund balance to pay off the 2007 operating cost. Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, said the amount that MECA is receiving in the proposal is lower than last year because MECA's fund balance is sufficient; and more money was not needed to subsidize it. He said there was also a slight reduction in the cost for dispatch operations for both the Sheriff and IFD and that is reflected. Councillor McWhirter asked for clarification as to whether other agencies are getting the extra funding or if MECA is keeping it. Mr. Seidenstein said they had taken more money from COIT last year because MECA's fund balance needed to have a higher

subsidy for 2006. He said they are drawing down the MECA fund balance, and, therefore, township agencies will not be getting a refund.

Councillor Plowman asked if this is the only funding mechanism for MECA. Mr. Clifford replied in the negative. Councillor Plowman asked what MECA's total budget is. Mr. Clifford said their proposed budget for 2007 is \$13.9 million and their revised budget for 2006 was \$14.2 million.

Councillor McWhirter moved, seconded by Councillor Brown, to send Proposal No. 428, 2006 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

BUDGET HEARING

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

Earl Morgan, Director of Public Safety, made staff introductions, remarks on philosophy, and the future of the department. Thereafter, he presented the budget (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office). Some highlights are as follows:

- DPS' focus has changed to be more community focused, become more accountable to the customer (taxpayers), and to focus more on homeland security.
- DPS' Full-Time Equivalents (FTE's) total 1,061.13, which includes the Washington Township merger, grant positions, and four additional employees for Animal Control.
- DPS has achieved several accomplishments in each division (found in the exhibit)
- Character 01 was impacted by contractual salary increases, the Washington Township merger, group insurance, and Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF).
- Characters 02-05 were impacted by chargebacks from several departments.
- Overall, the public safety budget has a \$19 million increase, with Character 01 obtaining the bulk of the budget.

[Clerk's note: Councillor Franklin arrived at 6:13 p.m.]

Councillor McWhirter asked for clarification on combined IFD Fire Suppression. Mr. Morgan said the combined IFD Fire Suppression is in terms of how the systems work together and how the city works to assist some of the townships.

Office of the Director

Mr. Morgan said that 59% of the 2007 budget is Administration, 16% of the budget is in Financial Management, and 25% of the budget is in Grants Management. He said there is an increase of \$12,039 in the budget.

Councillor McWhirter asked why the department's salaries did not decrease due to no longer having oversight of the Indianapolis Police Department (IPD). Doug King, Financial Analyst, said their budget went up because they gain new employees by moving the grants section from IPD to public safety.

Councillor Plowman asked if animal control officers carry guns and have arrest authority. Mr. Morgan replied in the negative. Councillor Plowman asked if DPS has direct oversight of Park Rangers and Indianapolis Public School (IPS) police in regard to their arrest authority. Mr. Morgan said DPS is the approving authority, but the individual agencies have final authority over their employees.

Emergency Management

Greg Hall, Assistant Administrator, presented the budget for Emergency Management (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office). Some key points of his presentation are as follows:

- The department's area of responsibility consists of nine townships, four excluded cities, and 12 unincorporated areas.
- The department operates at a tactical, operational, and strategic level.
- The duties of the department are: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- The department has made several accomplishments within the year, including the upgrade on the tornado warning siren.
- Awarded Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant dollars in the amount of \$4.7 million for 2006.
- Emergency Management has a position funded by the American Red Cross (ARC).
- Negative amounts in the department's initial budget are due to grant money not yet received and appropriated.

Councillor Franklin asked if Emergency Management does work outside the county. Mr. Hall said if requested, they can respond outside the county. Councillor Franklin asked if

the department charges for their services outside the county. Mr. Hall said they have yet to respond to any request outside the county. Mr. Morgan said lay agreements do need to be developed.

Weights and Measures

Michelle Phillips, Assistant Administrator, presented the budget for Weights and Measures (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office). Some key points of her presentation are as follows:

- Fees for inspections or tests related to weights and measures are prohibited by statute.
- Weights and Measures provides services in the distribution and sale of all the necessities of life.
- The proposed budget for 2007 is \$385,546, with a net increase of \$36,016.
- Character 01 is increasing due to PERF and Character 05 is decreasing because the department has one less vehicle.

Animal Care and Control Division (ACCD)

Leslie Fatum, Administrator, presented the budget for the Animal Care and Control Division (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office). Some key points of her presentation are as follows:

- The division has experienced several accomplishments in 2006, including being a part of the Hurricane Katrina Rescue program for animals.
- The division has several community outreach programs, which include “Home for the Holidays” adoption program and “Walk a Hound Lose a Pound”.
- ACCD’s goals include: aggressively enforcing animal-related ordinances, continuing outreach and public relations, and going into targeted neighborhoods to provide microchipping and neutering services to communities in need.
- The division’s budget has a net increase of \$329,210, primarily due to the request of four additional full time employees.

[Clerk’s note: Ms. Fatum also presented the committee with a brief video of the work of the ACCD.]

Councillor McWhirter asked why the division’s personal services have increased. Ms. Fatum said the bulk of that increase is for the four requested employees. Councillor

McWhirter asked about the increase in facility lease and rentals. Mr. Seidenstein said facility lease and rentals (Character 03) is increasing due to the building rent increasing. Councillor McWhirter asked if the payment of leased vehicles is part of the Metropolitan Emergency Communications Agency (MECA) bond. Mr. Clifford replied in the affirmative. Councillor McWhirter asked how many vehicles will be leased. Mr. Seidenstein said the division will receive a sufficient amount of vehicles, because their current vehicles are in bad shape.

Indianapolis Fire Department and Pension Fund

Chief James Greeson, IFD Chief, presented Chief William Cloud with an award for 40 years of service with IFD and congratulated him on his retirement. Following his presentation of the award, Mr. Greeson presented the budget for IFD (Exhibit B, on file in the Council office). Some key points of his presentation are as follows:

- In 2007 there will be 865 uniformed and 118 civilian workers in IFD.
- Dispatched incidents are fairly steady, although there is an expected increase for 2006.
- The Fire/Arson Investigation unit is a model for the country, which consists of sworn firefighter and police officers.
- Code Enforcement consists of two deputy court marshals and one fire protection specialist in the mile square. The division also has night teams primarily on weekends or during a major event.
- IFD is one of two departments in the state that provide 13 disciplines of emergency services.
- There will be an increase in emergency response apparatuses and IFD buildings due to the Washington Township merger.
- The number one priority of IFD is firefighter safety. Many programs have been established to reduce firefighter deaths and improve training in fire ground activities.
- IFD's budget has increased by \$19 million, and the bulk of the increase is due to the increase of employees.
- Character 02 (Materials and Supplies) has increased due to the need for new turnout gear.

- Character 04 (Properties and Equipment) has decreased substantially, due to \$2.5 million given by the Council for emergency response apparatus purchase. Three new engines will be purchased this year with the money given.

Mr. Seidenstein said IFD is showing a reduction in Character 04 because they needed equipment this year. He said Character 04 dollars next year will be used to pay off vehicle leases they had in prior years.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked if the emergency apparatus purchase is only for IFD. Chief Greeson replied in the affirmative. Chair Moriarty Adams asked if IFD's reserve equipment is safe. Chief Greeson replied in the affirmative and said their equipment is serviced when it is needed. He said if the equipment is not safe, it is not on-line.

Councillor Oliver asked if IFD receives any chargebacks for services done outside their district. Chief Greeson said they only receive chargebacks on a hazardous material response for equipment and materials used. Councillor Oliver asked if a cost analysis has been done on the additional service IFD provides outside their district. Mr. Clifford replied in the negative and said there is a joint agreement that is currently in effect.

Councillor McWhirter asked how often IFD is rated by the Insurance Service Organization (ISO). Chief Greeson said the ratings are not done very often. He said it has been several years since IFD has had a rating. Councillor McWhirter asked if they anticipate ISO coming out to rate them with the new merger. Chief Greeson replied in the affirmative. Councillor McWhirter asked how many of the uniforms are coming from the Washington Township Fire Department (WTFD). Chief Greeson said the WTFD has 156 firefighters. Councillor McWhirter asked how many civilians work within WTFD. Chief Greeson said there will be nine civilians, because some of the WTFD existing civilians will be offered jobs with IFD. Councillor McWhirter asked if the increase in overtime and bi-weekly positions is increasing due to civilian positions. Chief Greeson replied in the affirmative. Councillor McWhirter asked if Washington Township firefighters will receive pay parity with IFD. Chief Greeson replied in the affirmative. Councillor McWhirter asked if there is an increase in the budget for the union contract. Chief Greeson replied in the negative. Councillor McWhirter asked if they have a dollar amount of the unfunded pensions from WTFD. Mr. Clifford said the WTFD unfunded pensions will be paid from a tax levy in Washington Township. Councillor McWhirter asked if the 33 new hire civilians will be staffing Washington Township only. Chief Greeson replied in the affirmative and said all apparatuses in Washington Township will remain there.

Chief Cloud said the overall increase in the budget includes firefighter pensions and the 21% pension cost for Washington Township firefighters who are '77 fund members. Mr. Clifford said the pension expense for 2007 will be about \$4 million higher than 2006.

Councillor McWhirter asked where the debt service on the pension fund is located. Mr. Clifford said this debt service is in a non-departmental debt service fund.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

MMA/as